

REMARKS

A. Introduction

Claims 1-20 and 23-28 were pending and under consideration in the application, claims 21 and 22 having been previously canceled.

In the Office Action mailed January 7, 2010, claims 1-4, 9-13, 15-17, 19-20, 23, 27, and 28 were rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Loose*, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0161115 (hereinafter, "*Loose*").

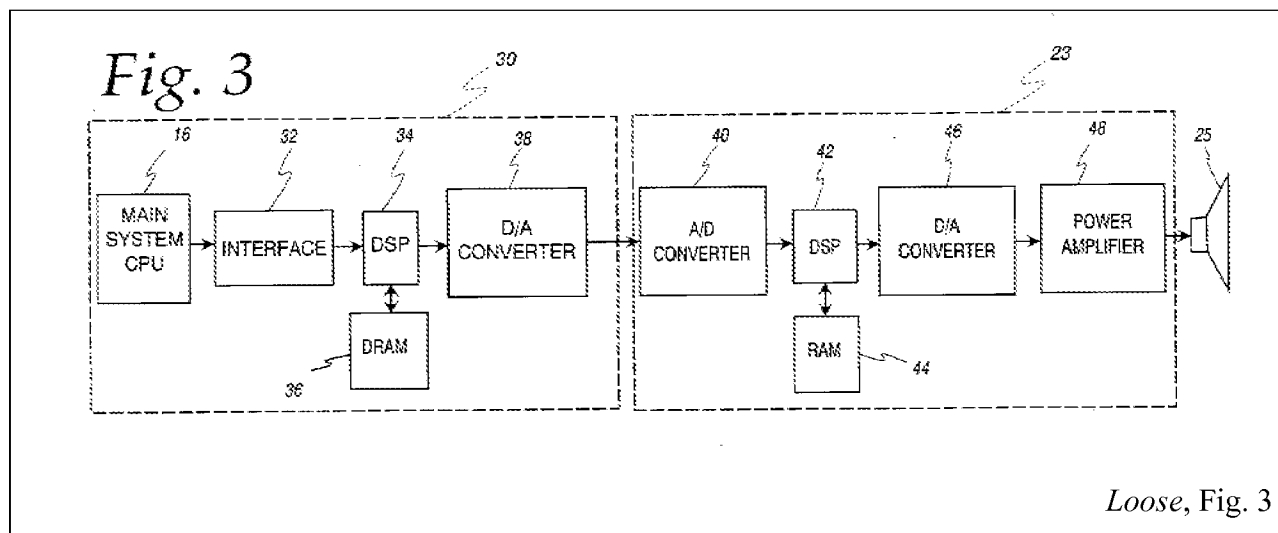
Claims 5-8, 14, 18, and 24-26 were rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Loose* in view of *Prezby*, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/01000359 (hereinafter, "*Prezby*").

In response, Applicants are hereby amending the claims for clarity. Support for the amendment may be found, at least in Paragraphs 0029-0030 and Fig. 3 of the application as published as US 2005/0032575. No new matter is being added.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S. C. §103(a)

1. Claims 1-4, 9-13, 15-17, 19-20, 23, 27, and 28 were rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Loose*.

Loose relates to a gaming machine having a control architecture for producing an enhanced audio experience for players of the gaming machine. Referring now to Fig. 3 of *Loose*, reproduced below, for the convenience of the Examiner, *Loose* discloses the gaming machine has a first control module 30 that includes a main processor 16. The main processor 16 randomly selects one of a plurality of outcomes of the gaming machine in response to a wager amount and sends audio information that controls audio output from the gaming machine. An audio control module 23 is separate and distinct from the first control module 30, and includes an audio processor 42 that receives the audio information from the main processor 16. The audio control module 23 is coupled to an audio speaker system 25 for broadcasting the audio output corresponding to the audio information. *Loose*, Abstract.



Loose fails to teach or suggest a programmable logic device (PLD) interposed between a digital signal processor (DSP) and a master gaming controller (MGC), as recited in independent claim 1. Neither does *Loose* teach or suggest a programmable logic device (PLD) interposed between a digital signal processor (DSP) and a central processing unit (CPU), as recited in each of independent claims 11 and 17.

The Office Action asserted that “interface” 32 of *Loose*, Fig. 3, corresponds to applicants’ PLD. Whether or not the foregoing assertion results from a reasonable construction of Applicants’ claims, *Loose* fails to suggest a programmable logic device and master gaming controller communicatively coupled by a control line, an address line, and a data line, where the control line and the address line are configured such that information can only be sent from the master gaming controller to the programmable logic device, and the data line is configured such that data bits may be sent in both directions, as presently recited in claim 1. On the contrary, *Loose*, if anything, teaches away from the foregoing feature, by expressly providing that communication between “main system CPU” (element 16) and interface (element 32) flows only from element 16 to element 32.

Similarly, *Loose* fails to suggest a programmable logic device and central processing unit communicatively coupled by a control line, an address line, and a data line, where the control line and the address line are configured such that information can only be sent from the master gaming controller to the programmable logic device, and the data line is configured such that data bits may be sent in both directions, as presently recited in claim 11 and 17.

Because the above-noted features are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art, the Office Action fails to establish that the invention as a whole would have been obvious in light thereof. See MPEP 2143.03: "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art."

As a result, claims 1, 11, and 17, and claims depending therefrom, claims 2-10, 12-16, 18-20, and 23-28 are patentable over *Loose*.

2. Claims 5-8, 14, 18, 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Loose* in view of *Pryzby*.

Claims 5-8, 14, 18 and 24-26 each depend from an independent claim that is patentable for the reasons given in part B.1. above. The Office Action asserted that *Pryzby* discloses a slot game where audio can be tailored to a player using the player's recorded voice as means of generating an enhanced audio output which will attract frequent play. Whether or not this is true, such disclosure fails to cure the deficiencies noted above.

As a result, claims 5-8, 14, 18, 24-26 are patentable over the combination of *Loose* and *Pryzby*.

C. Conclusion

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorneys at (510) 663-1100.

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Reply to the Office Action mailed January 7, 2010

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are required to facilitate the filing of this Amendment. However, if it is determined that such fees are due, please charge such additional fees to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P095).

Respectfully submitted,
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